

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 /057 W

----- 105522 /12

R 231158Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9020

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 20674

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, UK
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - MIAMI/LONDON EXTRA SECTIONS DURING
CHRISTMAS PERIOD

REF: STATE 293041

1. THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS REFTEL WERE CONVEYED TO
DEPT. OF TRADE BY LETTER DEC. 2, 1976. GEORGE ROGERS'
COMMENTS PROVIDED IN LETTER TO THE EMBASSY DATED DEC. 16
FOLLOW:

BEGIN Q/UOTE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 2 DEC. ABOUT
EXTRA SECTIONS ON THE LONDON/MIAMI ROUTE DURING THE
CHRISTMAS PERIOD.

I NOTE THAT NATIONAL AIRLINES HAVE NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO
OPERATE EXTRA SECTIONS DURING THE CURRENT WINTER SEASON.
I AM GLAD TO CONFIRM THAT BRITISH AIRWAYS LIKEWISE HAVE
NO PLANS FOR EXTRA SECTIONS.

IN VIEW OF THE DETAILED NATURE OF THE UNDERSTANDINGS
RECORDED IN THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN JOEL BILLER
AND MYSELF, DATED 7 AND 8 OCTOBER, WE WOULD EXPECT TO BE
CONSULTED BEFOREHAND IF NATIONAL AIRLINES SUBSEQUENTLY
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WISHED TO OPERATE EXTRA SECTIONS; AND WE WOULD ACT
LIKEWISE IF BRITISH AIRWAYS WERE TO INCREASE THEIR
OPERATING PLANS.

HOWEVER, THEY DO INTEND TO "UNROPE" CAPACITY ON THEIR
B747S ON A FEW OCCASIONS WHEN THE DEMAND FOR TRAVEL IS

EXPECTED TO EXCEED THE CAPACITY ON A "ROPED OFF" BASIS.
SINCE THIS IS CLEARLY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST I HOPE YOU
WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION.

YOURS SINCERELY

(G T ROGERS). END QUOTE.

IN VIEW OF ROGERS STATEMENT IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF HIS
LETTER, IT SEEMED TO US THE /UK WANTED THE BEST OF BOTH
WORLDS, RESTRICTING NATIONAL TO THE CAPACITY LEVELS THAT
CARRIER HAS SAID IT WILL OPERATE WHILE PERMITTING
BA TO USE ITS ROPED-OFF CAPACITY AS THE NEED ARISES.

2. TO TRY TO CLARIFY THIS POINT, WE DISCUSSED BA'S PLANS
TO "UNROPE" ROPED-OFF SECTIONS OF THEIR 747 AIRCRAFT
WITH DEPT. OF TRADE. DOT TOLD US THAT WHILE BA INTENDS
TO MATCH CAPACITY NATIONAL WILL OPERATE, IT WOULD PLAN TO
MAKE USE OF ROPED-OFF SOACE IN ADDITION WHEN MEETING THE
NEEDS OF THE PU:BLIC REQUIRED SUCH ACTION DURING HOLIDAY
PERIOD. ANY CHANGE OF CAPACITY BY NATIONAL, WHICH COULD
ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE OPERATION OF EXTRA SECTIONS,
WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED BEFOREHAND WITH THE UK. /WE
WERE ASSURED SUCH PROPOSALS WOULD BE GIVEN SYMPATHETIC
HEARING BY THE UK AS LONG AS NATIONAL COULD DEMONSTRATE A
NEED FOR ADDITIONAL CAPACITY. IN POINTING OUT INEQUALITY

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9021

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OF THIS ARRANGEMENT TO MEMBER OF ROGERS' STAFF, POINT

WAS MADE BY UK THAT ADDITION OF/CAPACITY BY BA BY SELLING
ROPED-OFF SEATS WHEN PUBLIC NEED DEMANDED EXTRA CAPACITY
WAS ACTION OF DIFFERENT QUALITY THAN THE ADDITION OF
EXTRA FLIGHTS WHICH WAS ONLY AVENUE OPEN TO NATIONAL.
DEPT. OF TRADE MAINTAINED THAT LATTER ACTION WAS SIGNI-
FICANT CHANGE IN PLANS THE CARRIERS HAD MADE FOR THE
ROUTE WHILE THE FORMER WAS ONLY ACTION TAKEN TO MAKE USE
OF SEATS WHICH IN ANY EVENT WERE ALREADY AVAILABLE. THE
BRITISH ASSUMED THE US WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY WITH
THESE PLANS SINCE WE HAD ALREADY SAID WE DID NOT OBJECT
TO BA EXTRA SECTIONS AND ACTION THEY NOW PROPOSED WAS
MORE LIMITED THAN THAT.

3. COMMENT: WE RECALL THAT ROGERS EXPLAINED THE MEANING
OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF HIS LETTER OF OCT. 8 BY SAYING THAT
BA MIGHT CHOOSE NOT TO MATCH NATIONAL'S FREQUENCIES EVERY
WEEK OF THE WINTER PERIOD BUT, ON SOME OCCASIONS, MIGHT
INCREASE CAPACITY BY USING ROPED OFF SEATS INSTEAD.
APPARENTLY, WHAT IS NOW PROPOSED IS TO DO BOTH WHERE IT
IS TO BA'S ADVANTAGE TO DO SO. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE
BRITISH ARE TRYING TO ENGAGE US IN A FURTHER DISCUSSION
OF THE MIAMI CAPACITY QUESTION AS A PRECEDENT TO SUPPORT
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THEIR IDEAS ON HOW CAPACITY SHOULD BE MANAGED. WHILE
BRITISH LOGIC SEEMS CURIOUS INDEED, WE BELIEVE OUR
POSITION IS CLEAR AND DO NOT SEE ANY NEED TO BECOME
INVOLVED IN FURTHER EXCHANGES WITH THE BRITISH ON THIS
ISSUE.

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